

Message Text

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LIMDIS

DEPT PASS OTHER ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS, IF DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON

SUBJ: PRESENTATION OF SECRETARY'S LETTER RE MEXICO

CITY CONFERENCE TO FONMIN CALVANI

1. I CALLED THIS AFTERNOON (FEB 13) ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FORMER AMBASSADOR SOSA, WHO WILL ALSO BE A MEMBER OF VENEZUELAN DELEGATION AT MEXICO. THIS PLEASED ME SINCE SOSA HAS A MUCH BETTER COMMAND OF ENGLISH TO SAY NOTHING OF AN UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN WAYS OF OPERATION THAN HAS HIS FOREIGN SECRETARY.

2. CALVANI SAID HE WAS GREATLY PLEASED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER AND WOULD ANSWER IT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TOMORROW FOR SANTO DOMINGO AND MEXICO. HE SAID THAT UPON ARRIVAL AT MEXICO CITY HE WOULD AT ONCE GET IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR JOVA; AND I TOOK OPPORTUNITY AS AUTHORIZED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH AT OUR LIMA MEETING TO SAY SECRETARY WOULD BE PLEASED TO CALL ON CALVANI IN MEXICO ON WEDNESDAY, FEB 20, AT 6:30 P.M. THIS ALSO GREATLY PLEASED CALVANI, WHO SAID HE WILL BE LODGED AT THE HOTEL PASO REAL.

3. I WENT OVER THE SUMMARY TALKING POINTS GIVEN ME BY
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MESSRS. KUBISCH AND EATON AT LIMA AND FOUND IT USEFUL ALSO

TO MAKE SURE THAT AMBASSADOR SOSA UNDERSTOOD THEM. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD NO OBJECTION TO OUR BASIC VIEWS ALTHOUGH HE DID TRY TO MAKE A NITPICK WITH REFERENCE TO THE "INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM" THAT NEITHER GUYANA (VENEZUELA'S LITERAL BETE NOIR) NOR THE BAHAMAS ARE TECHNICALLY MEMBERS OF THE OAS.

4. WHEN IT CAME TO OUR PREFERRED FORMAT, I MADE IT SEEM AS IF SUGGESTED ARRANGEMENTS FOR SPEECHES AND ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WERE IDEAS EMANATING FROM OUR MEXICAN HOSTS. HOWEVER, I DID MAKE IT CLEAR THAT SECRETARY IN HIS OPENING SPEECH THOUGHT IT RIGHT TO TAKE UP THE EIGHT POINTS OF THE BOGOTA MINISTERS AGENDA AND SPEAK ON THEM SERIATIM.

5. TO THIS CALVANI REPLIED WASPISHLY, "THIS WILL MAKE IT ANOTHER OAS CONFERENCE* IT WILL BE JUST LIKE ROGERS MAKING ANOTHER LONG SPEECH AND THEN LEAVING THE MEETING." I POINTED OUT THAT IN LOGIC (AND WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT WITH CALVANI, LOGIC IS HIS STRONGEST WEAK POINT), IT WAS ONLY REASONABLE TO EXPECT OUR SECRETARY OF STATE TO RESPOND TO THE EIGHT POINTS WHICH HAD BEEN PUT TO HIM BY HIS OTHER HEMISPHERIC COLLEAGUES. TO THIS CALVANI WAS FORCED TO AGREE. HOWEVER, HE IS HIGHLY FEARFUL OF SET SPEECHES AND OF THE RISK THAT THE MEXICO MEETING MIGHT TURN INDEED TO BE ANOTHER OAS CONFERENCE IN A NEW SETTING WITH THE MEXICANS INSISTENT ON REACHING AN "ACTO OF TLATELOLCO."

5. I REMINDED FONMIN OF HIS REMARKS TO ME OF LAST WEEK THAT AT SUCH A MEETING THE MODUS OPERANDI WAS PERHAPS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION; AND HERE HE WENT OVER AGAIN HIS DESIRE THAT IN SECRET SESSION THERE BE A FRANK ROUND TABLE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITHOUT SET SPEECHES AND WITHOUT THE CONTENTION OF DEBATE. I POINTED OUT (PARA TWO OF TALKING POINTS) THAT WE WELCOMED THE FACT MEETING EVIDENTLY WILL BE SO STRUCTURED THAT WE CAN SPEAK INFORMALLY AND FRANKLY WITH EACH OTHER. I WOULD THINK IN THIS REGARD THAT IF SECRETARY MEETS WITH CALVANI ON EVENING OF FEB 20 JUST BEFORE MAIN CONFERENCE OPENS ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE

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TO REACH A MEETING OF THE MINDS AS TO TACTICS AND THE PROPER STRUCTURING OF A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WHICH, AS CALVANI POINTED OUT, DID NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO LEAD TO FORMAL RESOLUTIONS OR FINAL ACTS. HE SAID, "IF WE CAN GET A CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION GOING, EVEN THOUGH THE MEETING MAY END BY A FIXED DATE, THERE IS NO REASON WHY THESE CONVERSATIONS SHOULD NOT CONTINUE AT SOME LATER TIME UNTIL THERE IS A MEETING OF MINDS OR AT LEAST AN UNDERSTANDING AS

TO WHERE OUR DISAGREEMENTS LIE."

6. I SAID THAT SINCE AMBASSADOR SOSA WAS NOT LEAVING FOR MEXICO UNTIL FEB 17, IF CALVANI DID NOT OBJECT I WOULD BE GLAD ONCE MORE TO GO OVER WITH SOSA SOME ASPECTS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS SO FAR AS I UNDERSTOOD THEM. IN THIS RESPECT IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY SPECIAL WORD WHICH IT WOULD FIND CONVENIENT FOR ME TO PASS ON TO SOSA, WHO WILL BE CALVANI'S PRINCIPAL ADVISER, NOT ONLY ON ENERGY BUT ON THE ENTIRE MEXICO MEETING, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE THESE VIEWS NO LATER THAN FEB 16.

7. CALVANI DEPARTS TOMORROW FOR SANTO DOMINGO AND BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM WE ARE SENDING FLIGHT INFORMATION.
MCCLINTOCK

NOTE BY OCT: CARACAS 1394 NOT PASSED ABOVE.

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